

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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Jose Crespo	:
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	:
Plaintiff(s),	:
-v-	:
Gutamn, Mintz, Baker & Sonnenfeldt, LLP, et al.	:
	<u>CIVIL CASE</u>
	<u>MANAGEMENT PLAN</u>
Defendant(s).	<u>AND SCHEDULING</u>
	<u>ORDER</u>
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This Civil Case Management Plan (the “Plan”) is submitted by the parties in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3).

1. All parties [consent \_\_\_\_\_ / do not consent  \_\_\_\_\_] to conducting all further proceedings before a United States Magistrate Judge, including motions and trial. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). The parties are free to withhold consent without adverse substantive consequences. [If all parties consent, the remaining paragraphs need not be completed.]
2. Settlement discussions [have \_\_\_\_\_ / have not  \_\_\_\_\_] taken place.
3. The parties [have  \_\_\_\_\_ / have not \_\_\_\_\_] conferred pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f).
4. Amended pleadings may not be filed and additional parties may not be joined except with leave of the Court. Any motion to amend or to join additional parties shall be filed within 60 days from the date of this Order. [Absent exceptional circumstances, thirty (30) days.]
5. Initial disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) shall be completed no later than 14 days from the date of this Order. [Absent exceptional circumstances, fourteen (14) days.]
6. Fact Discovery
  - a. All fact discovery shall be completed no later than March 15, 2023. [A period not to exceed 120 days, unless the Court finds that the case presents unique complexities or other exceptional circumstances.]
  - b. Initial requests for production of documents shall be served by December 15, 2022.
  - c. Interrogatories shall be served by February 13, 2023.

- d. Depositions shall be completed by March 15, 2023.
- e. Requests to admit shall be served by February 13, 2023.
- f. Any of the deadlines in paragraphs 6(b) through 6(e) may be extended by the written consent of all parties without application to the Court, provided that all fact discovery is completed by the date set forth in paragraph 6(a).

7. Expert Discovery

- a. All expert discovery, including expert depositions, shall be completed no later than April 28, 2023. [Absent exceptional circumstances, a date forty-five (45) days from the date in paragraph 6(a) (*i.e.*, the completion of all fact discovery).]
- b. Plaintiff's expert disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) shall be made on or before April 7, 2023.
- c. Defendant's expert disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) shall be made on or before April 21, 2023.
- d. The interim deadlines in paragraphs 7(b) and 7(c) may be extended by the written consent of all parties without application to the Court, provided that expert discovery is completed by the date set forth in paragraph 7(a).

- 8. All motions and applications shall be governed by the Court's Individual Practices.
- 9. All counsel must meet in person to discuss settlement within fourteen (14) days following the close of fact discovery.
- 10. a. Counsel for the parties have discussed an informal exchange of information in aid of early settlement of this case and have agreed upon the following:

Plaintiff requests the disclosure of insurance by Defendants and of the identity of the property management company and any agreements between the property management company and Gutman, Mintz, Baker & Sonnenfeldt, LLP, to collect the alleged rental arrears or judgment against Plaintiff Jose Crespo.

Gutman Defendants object to the production of the agreement to the extent that one exists, and requests Plaintiff produce all documents supporting Plaintiff's claim of "actual damages."

- b. Counsel for the parties have discussed the use of the following alternate dispute resolution mechanisms for use in this case: (i) a settlement conference before a Magistrate Judge; (ii) participation in the District's Mediation Program; and/or (iii) retention of a privately retained mediator. Counsel for the parties propose the following alternate dispute resolution mechanism for this case:

Plaintiff proposes retention of a privately retained mediator.

Gutman Defendants propose mediation in the Court's mediation program.

- c. Counsel for the parties recommend that the alternate dispute resolution mechanism designated in paragraph 10(b) be employed at the following point in the case (e.g., within the next sixty days; after the deposition of plaintiff is completed (specify date); after the close of fact discovery):

Plaintiff proposes that alternate dispute resolution mechanisms be explored after the close of fact discovery.

Gutman Defendants propose mediation within 60 days of this Order, and Defendants' counsel would be generally available in early January.

- d. The use of any alternative dispute resolution mechanism does not stay or modify any date in this Order.

11. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any summary judgment motion shall be filed within fourteen (14) days of the close of all discovery. The parties shall submit a Joint Pretrial Order prepared in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) and the Court's Individual Practices within thirty (30) days of a decision on such motion. If no motion for summary judgment is filed, the parties shall file the Joint Pretrial Order within thirty (30) days of the close of discovery. Any motions in limine shall be filed on or before the date on which the Joint Pretrial Order is due. If this action is to be tried before a jury, proposed voir dire, jury instructions, and verdict form shall also be filed on or before the Joint Pretrial Order due date. Counsel are required to meet and confer on a joint submission of proposed jury instructions and verdict form, noting any points of disagreement in the joint submission. Jury instructions may not be submitted after the Joint Pretrial Order due date, unless they meet the standard of Fed. R. Civ. P. 51(a) (2)(A). If this action is to be tried to the Court, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law should be submitted on or before the Joint Pretrial Order due date.

12. The parties shall be ready for trial on May 22, 2023. [Absent exceptional circumstances, a date within two weeks following the Final Pretrial Order due date.]

13. This case [is X / is not       ] to be tried to a jury.

14. Counsel for the parties have conferred and their present best estimate of the length of trial is 3 days.

15. Other issues to be addressed at the Initial Pretrial Conference, including those set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)(3), are set forth below.

Plaintiff requests electronic discovery be produced in its native format as well as in pdf, such as but not limited to emails.

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Counsel for the Parties:

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The parties shall file a joint status letter by March 22, 2023, (1) confirming that all fact discovery has been completed, and (2) addressing whether the parties wish to be referred at that time to the Court's mediation program or Magistrate Judge Figueredo for a settlement conference.

This Order may not be modified or the dates herein extended, except by further Order of this Court for good cause shown. Any application to modify or extend the dates herein (except as provided in paragraph 6(f) and 7(d)) shall be made in a written application in accordance with Court's Individual Practices and shall be made no less than two (2) business days prior to the expiration of the date sought to be extended.

SO ORDERED.



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J. PAUL OETKEN  
United States District Judge

Dated: November 18, 2022

New York, New York